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Sports News...

University of New Hampshire
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DURHAM, N.H.--The University of New Hampshire wrestling team, fresh off a convincing 33-11 season-opening victory over MIT on Wednesday, will participate in Yankee Conference championship competition at Storrs, Connecticut, on Saturday.

The victory over MIT was UNH's first over the Engineers since 1970. MIT had won the last six matches between the two schools, most of them handily.

UNH Coach Irv Hess is optimistic that the Wildcats will do well in conference championship competition. "Boston University will be favored to win the championship," Hess says, "but I feel if we wrestle to our potential, we will have a shot at the title."

Defending champion Rhode Island will not participate in the championship competition because of a schedule conflict.

The victory over MIT bore out Coach Hess' pre-season optimism that this year's Wildcat wrestling team is the best-balanced group he has had in the eight years that UNH has had a wrestling program. "Beating MIT is a big boost," Hess says. "Now the Harvard match on December 15 is a real key. If we could win that, or even do well in a losing cause, I feel we can have an excellent season."

After the Yankee Conference championship match, the UNH matmen face Bowdoin at home next Wednesday and then wrap up first semester action against Harvard and Maine on December 17. The Wildcats have seven

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Other matches scheduled in February.

Hess expects to go with the same line-up that won the MIT match for the conference championship. Junior Scott Wood will wrestle at 118 pounds, freshman John Boghos at 126, junior Nabil Boghos at 134, senior Mike Latessa at 142, senior Wally Nugent at 150, freshman Chet Davis at 158, junior Bill Fogarty at 167, junior Larry DeGaravilla at 177, sophomore Bob MacNally at 190, and senior Glenn Myers in the unlimited division.

Latessa, Nugent and Fogarty recorded pins against MIT, while Wood, Davis, MacNally and Myers won decisions. Nabil Boghos came from behind to earn a draw with his MIT opponent.



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RELEASE # 77-47

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DURHAM, N.H.--Senior Walt Nugent of Melrose, Massachusetts, has been a key factor behind the early success of the University of New Hampshire wrestling team. Wrestling in the 150-pound weight class, Nugent has a personal record of 5-2 this season, as UNH has won four of its first five dual matches.

"Wally wrestles hard for the full eight minutes in every match," UNH coach Irv Hess says. "He is very persistent, going right after his opponent and keeps up the pressure until he pins him."

Two of his wins this year have come by pins, as he stopped his opponents from MIT and Bowdoin. He has also gained decisions over John Paine of Boston College and Dean Steele of Connecticut.

In the Yankee Conference Championship in December, Nugent won a decision against UConn's Steele in the semi-finals before dropping a 9-8 decision to Guy Bercier of Boston University in the championship match.

Nugent is the captain of this year's UNH team. "Wally is a good leader," Hess says. "He is enthusiastic and dedicated, and has the respect of all his teammates. Wally works hard in practice, which in turn makes everyone else work hard."

Nugent won three varsity wrestling letters at Melrose High School and will become a four-year letter-winner at UNH at the end of this season.

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"Wally had a big transition to make early in his UNH career," Hess relates. "He came here as a lightweight but grew up quickly. He realized it would be easier to lift weights and stay at 150 pounds, than kill himself to get back down where he was before."

As a freshman on the UNH varsity, Nugent compiled an outstanding 8-1-1 record. After slipping to 2-3 as a sophomore, he managed an 8-7 record last year, including a fourth-place finish in the New England Championship.

"Wally is a very industrious kid," Hess says. "He has put himself through college by working odd jobs around campus." Among the jobs Nugent has held are skate sharpening at Snively Arena, being a porter for visiting teams, working the concession stands, and pushing a broom.

"Wally has put a lot of time into improving his wrestling and, although he works at all those odd jobs, he has still maintained a high academic average," Hess points out. A business administration major, Nugent has a 3.15 academic average based on a 4.00 scale.